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E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
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INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
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Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Shops, bus stands open but no people

Mysureans opt for self-imposed Sunday curfew; stay at home

Mysuru, May 31 (RKB&BCT)- A week ahead of 'Unlock India 1.0' where places of worship, shopping malls, hotels and restaurants can open from June 8, Mysureans went for a self-imposed Sunday curfew (May 31) and stayed indoors.

Though yesterday the State Government declared that there won't be a Sunday curfew on May 31 and it will be a normal day of lockdown relaxation, Mysuru city wore a deserted look. Though all salons, shops, markets, business establishments in the Central Business District were open, there were hardly any buyers.

There wasn't even the Sunday ritual of hair cutting with most of the salons and parlours waiting for customers.

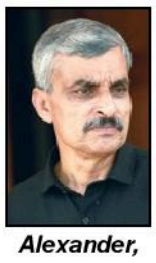
While many shops downed their shutters by noon as there were no people, the worst affected were autos and taxis. And even the KSRTC. Auto drivers were hoping for a decent business today but were disappointed to see empty streets. Except for a handful of drivers and conductors in the KSRTC Sub-urban Bus Stand, there were no passengers.

The KSRTC Rural Division had arranged four to five buses to Chamarajanagar and Madikeri today but the services had to be cancelled. The same scene was witnessed in City Bus Stand too where a couple of bus conductors were seen waiting for non-existent passengers. A few buses went to some city areas in the morning but the trips were later cancelled.

Shopping malls to open from June 8: Meanwhile, releasing details of the first of a three-phase plan aimed at lifting stringent restrictions, the Union Home Ministry said yesterday that places of worship, shopping malls, hotels and restaurants can open from June 8. The plan, called Unlock 1.0, also removes restrictions on inter-and intra-State travel.

(See BUS STANDS on page 6)

Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary sees longest closure of 78 days



Alexander, DCF

Mysuru, May 31 (MTY&BCT)- The Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary has seen long closure of 78 days till today (May 31). The gates of the Sanctuary was closed on Mar. 14, 10 days before the nationwide lockdown due to the threat of Bird Flu as some birds had died inside Mysuru city and the Forest Department had taken a decision to close the tourist spot as a precautionary measure.

After the Bird Flu threat was removed as laboratory tests revealed that the Sanctuary was not affected, came COVID-19 and the nationwide lockdown. The Sanctuary has incurred a loss of up to Rs. 1.25 crore, the income that primarily comes from gate collection.

Forest officers say that such a long closure is being witnessed for the first time since its inception 80 years ago in 1940. Except for the annual floods that occur whenever large amount of water is released from the upstream Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Reservoir, the Sanctuary is not closed for the visitors. When the water level is high, the Bird Paradise is usually closed for 15 to 20 days.

(See SANCTUARY on page 6)

Dr. Kannan no more

Mysuru, May 31- Dr. N. Kannan of Kannan Diagnostic Centre on New Sayyaji Rao Road, the pioneer, who started the first private Pathology Lab in Mysuru, passed away at his house in Siddartha Layout this evening. He was 84. He was ailing for some time.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons Dr. Laxman and Dr. Praveen Kumar, daughter Shankari and a host of family members, relatives and well-wishers. Last rites will be held tomorrow. *[Read **Star of Mysore** interview titled **"I was the first person to open Pathology Lab in Mysuru: Dr. N. Kannan"** on May 5, 2018.*

Jubilant Company sponsors grocery kits to 2,500 civic workers

Mysuru, May 31 (PM&BNR)- District Administration will be distributing 2,500 grocery kits, sponsored by Jubilant Bhartia Foundation, Jubilant Generics, Nanjangud, to temporary and contract Pourakarmikas, UGD workers and garbage vehicle drivers of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC). The distribution process was symbolically launched by District Minister S.T. Somashekar at the Town Hall premises in city yesterday by distributing kits to 100 Pourakarmikas.

Each kit, packed by Loyal World, consists of 5-kg rice, 1-kg salt, ½ kg dal, ½ kg green gram, ½ kg rava, ½ kg sugar, ½ litre cooking oil, 100 gram mustard seeds and 1-kg ragi flour.

MLA S.A. Ramdas, who addressed the Pourakarmikas on the occasion, said: "You are the 'Corona Warriors' who worked to keep the city clean amidst lockdown. In the whole of South India, Mysuru district is known to be handling COVID-19 situation well. In this, even your contribution is worth mentioning. Everybody, from people's representatives to officers and staff at various levels, Pourakarmikas, have worked with discipline and co-ordination, as a result of which Mysuru could work effectively against the pandemic."

MLA L. Nagendra, who spoke, said: "You, Pourakarmikas, have worked selflessly and because of that, the district has been successful in handling this crisis."

Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, said: "Pourakarmikas have worked even in Containment Zones. Virus may spread in any form of waste. But still, Pourakarmikas have worked successfully taking all precautions. Your health is also important to us. Government employees have the risk of contracting virus, hence you must take many precautions in your lifestyle and take care of your family also. Let us continue this co-ordination in future too."

MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Dy. Mayor C. Sridhar, BJP leader C. Ramesh, Town Hall Committee President Shivakumar, MCC Health Officer Dr. Nagaraju and others were present.

Jubilant opening: Dist. Admn. nod awaited

Speaking to media on the sidelines of the programme, District Minister Somashekar said that there is no concept of Red, Yellow and Orange Zones now and restrictions have been relaxed. In view of this, the Chief Minister has written a letter to the Central Government to give nod to Hotel services and opening of Temples and Malls.

On giving new loans to farmers, he said that the process has been initiated and officers have been appointed to see that farmers get loans under District Co-operative Banks. "Also, Revenue Department officials have been instructed to speed up the process of providing 'Pahani' and other documents to farmers. I am visiting the Co-operative Banks across the State to check how the Banks have been working with regard to providing loans to farmers," he added.

To a query if Pourakarmikas will be given financial aid similar to ASHA activists, he said that ASHA activists get only Rs. 4,000 monthly honorarium so they were given financial aid but Pourakarmikas get comparably a good salary.

Dismissing that the grocery kit distribution was a damage control attempt by the Jubilant Company, the District Minister said: "Central and State Governments have given nod to open the company. But District Administration has not given permission yet as it is appointing officials to check precautions to be taken before reopening the company; Once the process is complete, permission will be given to open the company."

500 people under home quarantine

DC Abhiram Sankar, who spoke to media, said: "Public cooperation is very essential now with over 500 people under home quarantine. People must keep an eye on those under home quarantine in their surroundings and also be careful when they go out as lockdown has been relaxed now."

Pharmacists upload data of cough, cold, fever medicine purchase

Training on uploading being given in city since a week

Mysuru, May 31 (KS)- Nearly a month after an order was issued to chemists and druggists across the State to upload the details of those persons purchasing medicines for cough, cold and fever on a designated web portal, Mysuru Deputy Drugs Controller Office has been giving training to pharmacists since a week.

Following this, pharmacists and medical shop owners are now uploading the list to the website which comes under the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). An order to upload the names and phone numbers of those purchasing the above drugs was issued to track COVID-19 symptoms.

Speaking to 'Star of Mysore,' Deputy Drugs Controller Arun Kumar said that training for pharmacists and staff of medical stores is being given since a week and added that almost all medical stores were uploading the names and other details of those purchasing medicines for cough, cold and fever, which are the symptoms for COVID-19.

He further said that the Health Department officials would make random calls to the patients mentioned in the list and conduct COVID-19 tests on those with symptoms.

Meanwhile, N. Raghavan of Raghulal and Co. said that zone-wise training to pharmacists on how to upload the details of those purchasing cough, cold and fever medicines is being given and added that Drugs Control Department is doing a great job. He further said that medical stores have begun uploading the details and added that the officials of the Health Department are doing the follow ups by calling those who have purchased the medicines and conducting tests if needed.

Raghavan said that the website created by SDMA can be accessed by the Deputy Commissioner, District Health Officer, Drugs Controller and other officials concerned.

It may be recalled that in the wake of rising Coronavirus cases, the State authorities had made it mandatory for medical shops and pharmacists to keep a record of phone number and address of customers who buy medicines for fever, cough and cold or symptoms similar to COVID-19.

Every evening pharmacists have to upload the details of such drug purchase in the website created by State Disaster Management Authority. Any failure or lapse by the medical stores will lead to suspension of licence.

Chemists, druggists and pharmacies in hospitals have to make an entry of the name, address, landmark and mobile number of all the persons who are provided the above drugs over the counter. Later, a website was created for medical stores to upload daily data.

Good response for animal adoption at city Zoo

Mysuru, May 31- The following persons have adopted the animals of Mysuru Zoo under the animal adoption scheme by paying the adoption fee:

M. Veeresh Kumar, Mysuru - Elephant - Rs. 1,50,000; Ketan Genesh Bende - Smooth Coated Otter - Rs. 5,000; Dorenandana - Red lorret - Rs. 2,000; Pooja B. Mysore - Star Tortoise - Rs. 2,000; S. Vasudev - Star Tortoise - Rs. 2,000; Krishna H. Mysore - Ring Tailed Lemur - Rs.5,000; Manohar Mysore - Common Peafowl - Rs. 7,000; M.G. Ananda Kumar - Jungle Cat - Rs. 5,000; K.S. Srimathi - Indian Grey Wolf, Finch, Ring Tailed Lemur, Flamingo, Love Bird and Great Hornbill - Rs.52,000; B.L. Shankar, Mysuru - Love Bird - Rs. 1,000; M.K. Bhagya, Mysuru - Indian Cobra - Rs.2,001; K.P. Prakruthi, Bengaluru - Indian Muntjac - Rs. 5,000.

Nagaranaadi Creations, Bengaluru - Ring Tailed Lemur - Rs. 5,000; Vibim Shanthraj, Mysuru - Ring Tailed Lemur - Rs. 5,000; Rochana R. Pandit Kumar - Star Tortoise - Rs.2,000; V.A. Raghavachar, Bengaluru - Australian Rainbow Lorikeet and Star Tortoise - Rs. 4,000; Sandeep Kumar, Tamil Nadu - Spotted Deer - Rs. 7,500; M.S. Suraj, Mysuru - Leopard Cat - Rs. 5,000; S. Roshini, Mysuru - Star Tortoise - Rs. 2,000; B. Yogeesh, Mysuru - Brow Antlered Deer - Rs. 7,500; P. Chirag Barola, Mysuru - Love Bird - Rs. 1,000; J. Likitha, Mysuru - Star Tortoise - Rs. 2,000; Shreya Amabati, Bengaluru - Indian Crested Porcupine - Rs. 3,500; G. Shivaji Rao Jadev, Mysuru - Love Bird - Rs. 1,000; M.A. Athitha and M.A. Akshatha - Nilgai, Common Langur and Indian Leopard - Rs. 55,000,.

Obituary

Kempamma

Mysuru, May 31- Kempamma

(80), mother of Cauvery Heart and Multispeciality Hospital Chairman Dr. G.R. Chandrashekar and a resident of Lalitha Mahal Nagar, passed away on Saturday in city. A native of Goni Tumkur in Tumakuru district, she leaves behind one son, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this noon.

P.K. Subbarao

P.K. Subbarao (78), a cloth

merchant and a resident of Akbar Road in Mandi Mohalla, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind his wife Pushpa, son Srinivas Pathange and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

VOICE OF THE READER

Property tax: Extend doorstep collection for all senior citizens

Sir,

Recently we, senior citizens, had been to the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Zonal Office at Sharadadevinagar to submit last year's property tax paid receipt xerox copy. Unfortunately, the condition which prevailed there was horrifying.

The Zonal Office was terribly crowded. Though the Government has formed norms for the people to follow, nobody observed it. The staff were helpless.

After submitting the form, we decided that we should call MCC Commissioner to solve our problem and informed him through WhatsApp. It was really amazing that within 15 minutes we received call from the MCC Revenue Inspector informing that he will come to our place and collect the property tax.

Pradeep and Ashok arrived at our place and generated the tax proforma (property tax details) and collected the cheque. The payment receipt was delivered at our doorstep next day.

We really appreciate their honesty and time-bound help in solving our problem. We are grateful to MCC Commissioner and staff. I hope all the senior citizens can avail this facility and take care of their health.

— Dr. M. S. Narayan, B. Shivanna, Premaleela Balasubramanyam, Seetharamrao Jagirdhar and Y. B. Nagaraj
Saraswathipuram 3rd Main
28.5.2020

Malabar Gold & Diamonds offers best price for old gold

Bengaluru, May 31- Malabar Gold & Diamonds, which has reopened its showrooms in Karnataka in line with the COVID-19 protocols, is offering an opportunity to the customers to sell their old gold ornaments at best prices and maximum value.

Through this customer-friendly offer, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will buy old gold ornaments, no matter from where the customer had bought the jewellery. The offer is available across its all showrooms. The payments will be made through either cheque or RTGS transfer, in line with the KYC norms. Customers can also exchange the old gold and claim its full value.

The leading retail chain has already re-opened the showrooms which have been disinfected to contain the spread of the virus.

The gold retail chain will arrive at the value of old gold after ascertaining its purity using karat analyser. Through this, Malabar Gold & Diamonds ensures higher value for customers at the best possible market rates while they sell their old gold. The company offers 100% exchange value for old gold.

Customers can also avail advance booking facility by paying minimum 10% of the price upfront for jewellery. This will protect customers from the galloping gold prices. By availing this offer, customers can either buy gold at the price at which they booked the gold or at the prevailing market price at the time of purchase, whichever is lower.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds gives correct and transparent bills to its customers for every purchase they make from its showrooms. Through this the company offers buyback guarantee, insurance protection and free lifelong maintenance for the ornaments. Most modern designs using state-of-the-art machinery, BIS hallmarking, international quality certified diamonds are the specialty of Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

For details, contact Huzail, Senior Marketing Manager, on Mob: 99452-57916.

Floriculturists asked to submit applications for relief

Mysuru, May 31- With many farmers who cultivated flowers suffering huge losses due to COVID-19 induced lockdown, vagaries of nature and lack of buyers, the Horticulture Department has asked farmers (Floriculturists) to submit compensation applications directly to the Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (SADH) at their respective taluks in order to avoid middlemen.

For details, call SADH, Mysuru ZP (Ph: 0821-2430450), SADH, H.D.Kote (Ph: 08228-255262), SADH, Hunsur (Ph: 08222-252447), SADH, K.R.Nagar (Ph: 08223-262792), SADH, Nanjangud (Ph: 08221-22620), SADH, Periyapatna (Ph: 08223-273535), SADH, T.Narasipur (Ph: 08227-260086).

STORM-REVIEWER online workshop on snake rescue

Mysuru, May 31- Kālinga Foundation and Kālinga Centre for Rainforest Ecology (KCRE) will conduct an online workshop — STORM (Scientific Training on Reptile Management) - REVIEWER — from June 5 to 7 between 5 pm and 6.30 pm.

Led by expert Herpetologist P. Gowri Shankar, the programme will address the ethics, basics, right equipment, right methods, first aid basics, legal aspects and more. He will also deconstruct snake rescue videos of participants to highlight the rights and wrongs.

The STORM-REVIEWER online workshop is a platform for aspiring and practicing snake rescuers, wildlife students, researchers, wildlife photographers and general public who would like to learn more about snake rescue. People are welcome to sponsor local snake rescuers, security and safety personnel in their apartments/ homes, offices, or factories and help them hone their skills.

P. Gowri Shankar

Speaking about the workshop, Gowri Shankar, Director, KCRE, said: "Snake rescue is important and there is a growing trend. But with lack of guidance and support, many people, especially youngsters, are losing their lives or getting injured permanently. STORM REVIEWER is here to fill that gap. I want people to get real about snake rescue, understand the science, ethics, legal aspects behind this, use right equipment and methods. I will also discuss if this skill holds a future as a career for them."

About Gowri Shankar, King Cobra Conservationist: As a rescuer, researcher, public speaker, presenter, educator and conservationist, Gowri Shankar brings forth 360 degree perspectives of snake rescue and conservation.

KCRE is an environmental education facility that opens doors of opportunities to people irrespective of professional or educational backgrounds to learn scientific tools of conservation through workshops and camps.

Kālinga Foundation is an NGO at Agumbe (Central Western Ghats, Karnataka) that integrates education and research for conserving our forests.

For details, log on to https://mailchi.mp/a9daca740fc5/kcre_storm-reviewer or e-mail: kalinga@kalingacre.com; WhatsApp: 94808-77670 or call Mob: 80954-11945.

Swachha Nagari initiative

District Minister flags off 65 new Auto Tippers: Every MCC Ward gets one vehicle

Mysuru, May 31 (RK&DM)- Adding more to the MCC's fleet of garbage collection and disposal vehicles, District Minister S.T. Somashekar flagged off 65 new Auto Tippers at the MCC Office premises on Sayyaji Rao Road here yesterday. Speaking on the occasion, Somashekar said it was extremely happy to note that Mysuru is among the six cities in the country which have come out with flying colours achieving 5-Star rating given by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, for keeping their areas garbage-free.

Asserting that the Government will extend all possible help for maintaining the city clean and hygienic in keeping with its reputation, Somashekar said that each of the 65 MCC Wards will get one vehicle, meant to be used for door-to-door collection and disposal of waste.

He called upon the citizens to join hands with the MCC for making Mysuru find a top spot in the global map of cleanest cities.

The MCC has purchased the 65 Auto Tippers at a cost of about Rs.12 lakh each under the JnNURM Scheme. The MCC had sent a proposal to the Government on purchasing the vehicles a year ago and now the proposal has become fruitful with the vehicles hitting the roads. These vehicles will be utilised for Swachha Nagari initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission in all the 65 Wards.

Over the past years, the MCC had purchased 169 such vehicles. But with the passage of time, some of the vehicles have become old, while a few others have been discarded due to mechanical and operational reasons. With 65 new Auto Tippers introduced for service, the MCC has deployed the drivers of discarded vehicles to run the new ones. In the meantime, the MCC has submitted a proposal to the Government seeking permission to appoint new drivers, it is learnt.

Mayor Tasneem, Dy. Mayor C. Sridhar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Additional Commissioner N.M. Shashikumar, Health Officers Dr.Jayanth and Dr. D.G. Nagaraj, MCC Standing Committee on Health Chairman Gopi, member Shobha and a host of other Corporators and officials were present.

World No Tobacco Day

Lung health, COVID and tobacco consumption

For many, the COVID-19 lockdown has been a good push to quit smoking. Tobacco smoking or chewing is a known risk factor for many respiratory infections and increases the severity of respiratory diseases. On World No Tobacco Day today, here is an article that highlights how smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 as they may also already have lung disease or reduced lung capacity which would greatly increase the risk of serious illness.

By Dr. M.S. Vishveshwara

Dr. Vishveshwara

As the global impact of COVID-19 increases, the healthcare community evaluates the clinical impact and the needs of patients with lung disease, who are at an increased risk of serious complications due to COVID-19.

Recently a review of studies by public health experts convened by the World Health Organisation (WHO) found that smokers are more likely to develop severe disease with COVID-19 compared to non-smokers.

India is home to a substantial number of tobacco users, frequently characterised by people who are consuming smoke and smokeless tobacco, the synergistic effect of it on lung health. People whose lung health is affected by factors such as lung disease or smoking tend to be at higher risk for more severe symptoms of COVID-19.

Tobacco consumption is associated with adverse health effects and is the prime cause of deaths globally. The underlying logic of a link between smoking and worse COVID-19 outcomes is that smoking is an established risk factor for respiratory infections, including the flu because it weakens the immune response that a person can mount against viral infection. Smokers may also greatly increase the risk of serious illness.

Suppressed immunity among smokers

As COVID-19 is a virus that primarily attacks the lungs, anything that harms the lungs can and result in more severe effects if people do become infected. Smoking increases the risk for respiratory infections, weakens the immune system, and is the primary cause of chronic health conditions like COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), diabetes and heart disease. Their immunity is suppressed because the mucosal barrier is damaged because of smoking. These diseases are considered pre-existing conditions that contribute to COVID-19 complications.

Smoking and vaping harms the lungs, leaving lung tissue inflamed, fragile and susceptible to infection. And tobacco use has been proven to harm our immune system and airway-lining cells that contain cilia on their surface, which are our essential defenders against viruses like the novel Coronavirus. Without them working properly, the lungs may be left undefended against the virus and susceptible to the most severe complications of the infection.

Signs and symptoms of unhealthy lungs

Signs and symptoms of lung diseases depend on the specific condition. They can vary from person to person and change over time. While each lung condition has its own features, there are some common signs and symptoms that are seen with many lung disorders.

- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing, gasping for breath
- Feeling like you're not getting enough air
- Decreased ability to exercise
- Coughing up blood or mucus
- Pain or discomfort when breathing in or out

Tests to diagnose lung disease

Lung function tests also called pulmonary function tests, measure the functioning of the lungs. Most of the tests involve assessing how much air a person can inhale and exhale. For instance, if a person exhales much less than the normal volume of air in one second or still has too much air in the lungs after exhaling forcefully; it may be a sign of lung disease.

Some of the common lung function tests are spirometry, body plethysmography, lung diffusion capacity, bronchial provocation test, cardiopulmonary exercise stress test, pulse oximetry test and arterial blood gas test.

Quit smoking to improve quality of life

Smoking impacts on a person's health, finances, lifestyle and social interactions. Smoking also affects material well-being, personal life and the health of people around them. Quitting smoking is associated with an improvement in mental health in comparison to continued smoking. It is well- known that stopping smoking substantially reduces major health risks, such as the development of cancers, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

Smoking also leads to financial burden for smokers and their families. Cigarettes have become increasingly expensive over the years. Giving up smoking reduces financial stress and improves standards of living. Those who quit smoking report less financial hardship and greater well-being compared to continuing smokers.

In the time of COVID-19 pandemic, smoking also increases the risk of being infected by the virus. Hence it is advisable to practice infection prevention techniques and carefully follow the precautionary measures such as toll-free quit lines, mobile text-messaging programmes, and nicotine replacement therapies, which can take immediate steps to quit smoking.

It also reduces the risks of other health problems such as heart attacks and strokes. Quitting is also linked to reduced depression, anxiety, and stress and improved positive mood and quality of life.

[The author is Chief Radiation Oncologist and Medical Superintendent, Bharath Hospital & Institute of Oncology, Mysuru]

Private buses to ply from June 1

T. Narasipur, May 31 (SK &KS)- With permission from the State Government and the District Administration, private buses will be resuming its service in the district from June 1 (tomorrow), said Mysuru District Private Bus Owners Association Vice-President P. Puttaraju.

Addressing press persons in the town yesterday, Puttaraju said that following the Centre's guidelines, the State Government has relaxed the lockdown norms and commercial activities have begun. As a green signal is given for private buses to operate, the services of private buses will begin tomorrow, he added.

Continuing, Puttaraju said that as permission is also given in the neighbouring districts of Chamarajanagar and Mandya, all preventive measures will be taken to prevent the spread of Coronavirus before the bus picks up passengers.

He added that a meeting with private bus owners by the officials concerned was held where the officials have clearly told the bus owners about the bus movements and the number of passengers to be ferried. The rules given by the officials would be strictly followed, he added.

Passengers to pay KSRTC rate

Private buses will ferry the same number of passengers as being ferried by KSRTC buses. As permission is given for KSRTC to ferry 30 passengers at a time, private buses too will ferry 30 passengers and commuters have to pay KSRTC fare for their destination, Puttaraju said and added that more than 30 private buses will ply from Monday.

KSRTC waives off trade licence fee for shops in bus stand complexes

Mysuru, May 31 (RK&DM)- With all trade, businesses and commercial activities coming to a grinding halt following the enforcement of COVID-19 lockdown, the KSRTC has waived off the trade licence fee of shops, hotels and other commercial establishments functioning from bus stand complexes, for the entire lockdown period.

In a letter sent to all the KSRTC Divisional Controllers, the Chief Traffic Manager said that shops and hotel owners doing business at KSRTC bus stand complexes and other commercial buildings belonging to it have suffered losses due to COVID-19 lockdown. As such, it has been decided to waive off trade licence fee of the shop owners effective from Mar. 22, 2020.

Accordingly, with the exception of mobile towers and Bank ATM counters, the trade licence fee of all other commercial establishments have been waived off till the lifting of lockdown.

The letter further said that likewise, advertisers who display advertisements at bus stands and on buses as well as public address system broadcasters too have been waived off licence fee to be paid to the KSRTC, effective from Mar.22.

In respect of cases where the shop owners have already paid the license fee for March, the paid amount will be adjusted for the fee to be paid after commercial activities restart following the withdrawal of lockdown.

Lorry owners urge District Minister to waive off six-month taxes

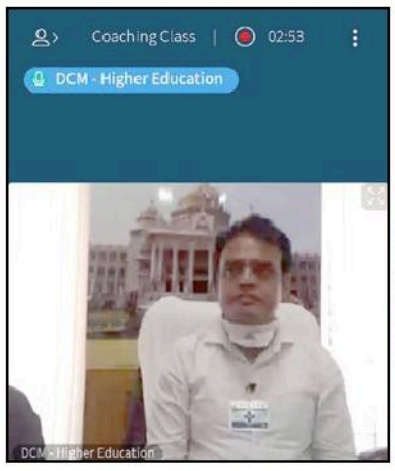
Mysuru, May 31 (RK&KS)- As movement of goods vehicles were banned following lockdown, lorry owners have urged District Minister S.T. Somashekar to waive off six months taxes and insurance amount.

The office-bearers of Mysuru District Lorry Owners Federation led by Federation President B. Kodandaramu, who met the District Minister during a press meet at Patrakarthara Bhavan here recently, apprised the Minister that they were in financial debts due to lockdown and submitted a memorandum to the Minister seeking tax and insurance waiver for six months.

Kodandaramu said that following a request from Federation State President Shanmugappa, the Chief Minister had waived off insurance and taxes for two months for which he thanked the CM and urged him (CM) to waive off taxes and insurance for four more months.

District Minister who received the memorandum, said that he would go through the memorandum and assured them that a decision in this regard would be taken by the Government.

KSOU's K-SET online coaching concludes



Dy.CM Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan during the valedictory of K-SET online coaching classes conducted by KSOU Competitive Exams Training Centre which was held through KSOU-CONNECT app on May 28. Picture right shows KSOU VC Prof. S. Vidyashankar, Registrar Prof. Lingaraj Gandhi and Programme Co-ordinator Jainahalli Satyanarayana Gowda.

Mysuru, May 31- The valedictory of K-SET online coaching classes conducted by Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) Competitive Exams Training Centre, farewell and study material release programme was held online through KSOU-CONNECT app on May 28.

The programme was inaugurated by Dy.CM Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan via video conference from his office. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the KSOU, which is working by utilising the digital technology to the maximum, had become a model University to the State.

He lauded the University by saying: "The online coaching conducted by the KSOU helped in preparations of competitive exam aspirants, rural candidates in particular, during COVID-19 lockdown. The Open University was also providing coaching to UPSC, KPSC, UGC-NET, PSI and Banking exams, which has to be appreciated."

Various subject experts, Vice-Chancellors (VCs), resource persons, IAS and KAS officers are part of the training programme conducted by the KSOU Competitive Exams Training Centre to provide best training, he added and wished the aspirants all success.

Hundreds of exam aspirants took part in this online programme and shared their opinions.

KSOU VC Prof. S. Vidyashankar and Registrar Prof. Lingaraj Gandhi briefed about the programme conducted by the University's Digital Forum.

"From the admission process to the Convocation, all the activities of KSOU are being digitalised. For the students' benefit, classes and competitive exams training are also conducted online. KSOU has itself developed KSOU Student App and KSOU-CONNECT App for the purpose which are being used by thousands of students. In this way, importance is given to digital education," said Prof. Vidyashankar who released the study material on the occasion.

Prof. Lingaraj Gandhi, who spoke, said: "KSOU and Mysore University was separated and KSOU has been working as an autonomous institution since 25 years. Marking this occasion, all the academic and administrative activities are being digitalised. Already, half of the works are successfully done."

Programme Co-ordinator Jainahalli Satyanarayana Gowda was present.

Large parts of economy open, time to be more careful: PM

World leaders show interest in Ayurveda and Yoga during Corona crisis

New Delhi, May 31 (UNI)- Prime Minister Narendra Modi this morning exhorted people not to lower their guard against the Coronavirus pandemic and adhere to the protocols of social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands as the major chunk of the economy was opened up. The PM's message, broadcast through his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat,' came a day after the Government announced a phased exit from the lockdown imposed since Mar. 25. Referring to India's fight against the Coronavirus pandemic, the PM said with its diverse challenges and population, the country has been able to contain the spread of infection and the death toll is comparatively lower.

"COVID-19 is very much there and we cannot be complacent… The road ahead is a long one. We are fighting a pandemic about which little was previously known," he said. The Prime Minister said though every section of society has been affected by the pandemic, the pain being felt by the poor cannot be measured in words.

PM Modi appreciated the efforts being made by individuals and organisations in helping those in need and said there is no section in the country that is unaffected by the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

"…However, the worst affected are the poor and the labourers. Their pain, their agony, and their ordeal can't be expressed in words," he said. Even as there has been concern over the movement of migrant workers back to their native States because of limited means of transportation, the PM appreciated the efforts being made by the Indian Railways in helping get workers home.

The Prime Minister reiterated his message of Atmanirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India and said many problems being faced now would not have arisen if the villages and towns were self-reliant. "At some places work in skill mapping of the labourers is taking place, at some places start-ups are being encouraged, migration commission has been commissioned somewhere and the Centre will also help open up opportunities for employment, self-employment and small scale industries in villages. These decisions are aimed at resolving the crisis and building a self-reliant India," he said.

Narendra Modi

PM Modi urged people to explore the benefits of yoga and said several international leaders had shown interest in knowing more about Ayurveda and Yoga. "During this Corona crisis I had a chance to speak to many world leaders. I want to share one secret today, they expressed great interest in Yoga and Ayurveda. Some leaders enquired how these can help in these times of Corona," he said.

"We have to explore yoga for community, immunity and unity," the PM said. Pointing out that the International Yoga Day is round the corner, he said that during the lockdown people from Hollywood to Haridwar are paying attention to Yoga.

With the World Environment Day coming up on June 5, the PM said it is imperative to pay attention to the biodiversity and conservation of water. He said the lockdown has given an opportunity to understand the rich biodiversity around us.

"Clean environment is directly linked to our life and the future of our children and therefore we have to be concerned about it individually, I request you to plant some trees on this environment day," he said.

Deadline for applying for K-SET extended till June 5

Mysuru, May 31- The University of Mysore (UoM), which is the Nodal Agency recognised by the UGC, New Delhi, for conducting K-SET (Karnataka State Eligibility Test), has extended the deadline for submission of application forms to June 5. The earlier deadline was May 25.

The K-SET is conducted for appointment of teaching faculty (Lecturers and Assistant Professors) in State-run Universities and First Grade Colleges in Karnataka. The K-SET is scheduled to take place at numerous centres across the State on June 21, 2020.

The aspirants can apply online by payment of exam fee along with a penalty of Rs.250 through the website [http://kset.uni-mysore.ac.in] before June 5. The aspirants are required to download application form, hall ticket and e-challan on the very next day of payment of fee, which is Rs.1,150 for General Category candidates, Rs.950 for Category 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B candidates and Rs.650 for SC/ST candidates.

More than 50,000 candidates from the State have registered for K-SET so far.

Meanwhile, several State-run Universities have reportedly expressed concern over conducting the K-SET on June 21, considering the spike in COVID-19 cases. The Universities are also said to have written to UoM seeking postponement of the exam citing difficulty in finalisation of centres and worries over safety and social distancing in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Universities write to Nodal Agency UoM seeking postponement of eligibility test

UoM VC clarifies

Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning regarding the demand by some Universities for postponement of the test, UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar said that the date of K-SET (June 21) was fixed only after consulting the Government and Higher Education Department authorities.

Pointing out that the SSLC exams and the pending II PUC exam are taking place in the month of June, he said that holding the test on June 21 (Sunday) would not be a problem.

Noting that the timing of the exam is beneficial for aspirants as Universities and the Government are likely to invite applications in the next three months for filling up over 1,000 teaching posts in Universities and Colleges, Prof.Hemantha Kumar asserted that the test will take place as scheduled and there can be no postponement.

"I will write to the Government appealing it to convince all the Universities to extend their full support and finalise centres for the June 21 K-SET ," he added.

Man goes missing

Mysuru, May 31 (KS)- A 55-year-old man, who left his house at Vivekananda Block in Teachers Layout on May 26 at about 11.30 am telling his family members that he was going for a walk, has since gone missing.

The missing man is Boregowda, a commission agent at APMC. According to the complaint lodged at Alanahalli Police Station, Boregowda had taken treatment for illness about 15 days ago and on May 26, he left his house for a walk leaving his mobile phone behind.

Those having any information about the missing man may contact Alanahalli Police Station on Ph: 0821-2418318 or call Police Control Room on Ph: 0821-2418339.

Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary closed for 78 days

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The Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary is spread across 67 hectares (165 acres) and has 24 islands including big and smaller ones. The sanctuary houses over 219 to 230 species of birds and also rare migratory birds that come here to breed. The Sanctuary has a sizable population of 12,000 spot-billed pelicans.

Ranganathittu attracts an average of over 5,000 visitors every day during peak season with the boating activity around the islands being the most popular one. The Forest Department has 16 boats in the Sanctuary.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Alexander said that the revenues of the Sanctuary has been severely hit and the Department is not in a position to rebuild the islands that have been ravaged by floods last October though some islands have been restored with the corpus fund that has been created out of the gate collection revenue.

"Even after the lockdown is relaxed we have not allowed anyone inside except for the staff and security personnel as allowing people will be in violation of Government guidelines. So far with the corpus fund, we have managed to pay salaries of contract workers and local labour force. Once the Government gives approval, we will open the Sanctuary with a lot of rules and restrictions," he said.

When the lockdown was in force, the Department had taken strict measures not to allow entry to the Sanctuary through alternative routes like Bangaradoddi Canal and through the islands. "We are working out Standard Operating Procedures to be followed like wearing masks, sanitisation of boats, ticket counters, staff wearing masks and gloves, social distancing and limited number of people at a particular place, fewer people in the walkway and paths and also limited people inside the boats," Alexander said.

To start with, it is mandatory for the visitors to wash their feet in water mixed with disinfectants before entering the Sanctuary. And for this purpose, two shallow tanks have been created near the Lotus Pond and Maharaja Tower. The tanks are five-foot-long and 2.5-foot wide, with three-inch deep water. Water would be refilled three times a day and in an effort to prevent infection, visitors to the Sanctuary are made to dip their feet in the tank, he added.

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Shops, bus stands open

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"All activities that were prohibited earlier will be opened up in areas outside Containment Zones in a phased manner, with the stipulation of following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), to be prescribed by the Health Ministry," a Government statement said.

Though the new guidelines will come into effect from Monday, places of worship (large religious gatherings are still not allowed), shopping malls, hotels and restaurants (but not bars) will resume operations beginning June 8.

Decision on Schools and Colleges in July

In the second phase, the Government plans to reopen all educational institutions including Schools and Colleges, after holding discussions with States and Union Territories (UTs), who can hold further talks with parents and other stakeholders. A decision is likely in July.

International air travel, metro rail services, cinema halls, gyms, swimming pools, bars, entertainment parks and auditoriums will remain closed and open only in the third phase. Large gatherings, including social, political, religious, and sporting events are also banned for now.

Night curfew between 9 pm and 5 am

In another significant step, the Union Government has relaxed the night curfew prohibiting non-essential travel. The ban on such movement will be between 9 pm and 5 am. Previously, it was between 7 pm and 7 am.

COVID-19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	6,117
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	5,409
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	541
Persons isolated in facility quarantine for 7 days	:	163
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	4
Total samples tested	:	9,258
Samples found negative	:	9,162
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	96
Persons cured / discharged	:	92
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	257
Persons cured / discharged	:	33
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	3,221
Persons cured / discharged	:	1,218
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	51
Total active cases in India	:	89,995
Persons cured / discharged	:	86,983
Death toll so far in India	:	5,164

(Note: Figures till 6 pm)

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